

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-38, 53, 76-82, 86-89, and 133-136.

By this Amendment, claim 24 has been amended to correct its dependency and provide proper antecedent basis; and allowed claims 53 and 86 have been rewritten in independent form. Withdrawn claims 59-75 and 90-132 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 39, 48, 83, and 85 have also been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-38, 40-47, 49-58, 76-82, 84, 86-89, and 133-136 are pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner repeated the restriction requirement, thus making it final. Accordingly, claims 59-75 and 90-132 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Although Applicants continue to traverse the restriction requirement, withdrawn claims 59-75 and 90-132 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in an effort to further prosecution.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 39-52, 54-58, and 83-85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,743,154 to James et al. ("James"). Independent claim 39 has been canceled and allowed claim 53 has been rewritten in independent form. Dependent claims 40-47, 49-52, and 54-58 have been amended, as necessary to change their dependency to depend directly or indirectly from allowed claim 53. Similarly, independent claim 83 has been canceled, allowed claim 86 has been rewritten in independent form, and dependent claim 84 has been

amended to depend from allowed claim 86. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection is moot and that claims 40-47, 49-52, 54-58, and 84 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification, claims, abstract, and drawings in these Remarks, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 59-75 and 90-132. Applicants request the reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-38, 40-47, 49-58, 84, 86-89, and 133-136. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 408-4488 if the Examiner believes that a discussion would further the prosecution of the application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge  
any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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